

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A distributed audio system for use in different rooms of a premises including a plurality of speakers, adapted for location in different rooms of a premises[[,]]; a power supply at a location in the premises and, an amplifier arrangement provided for each of the speakers, and located intermediate said power supply and each of said speakers, each of said ~~there is provided an~~ amplifier arrangements comprising an audio input, an audio output, a switching regulator and a switching amplifier, switching regulator is arranged to receive a variable DC electrical input from the power supply and output a substantially constant voltage to the switching amplifier, said power supply being arranged remotely from each of said amplifier arrangements and wherein said system is configured so that the said power supply is directly connected to ~~a~~ the plurality of said amplifier arrangements via respective cables, wherein said amplifier arrangements are respectively located in different rooms of a premises and can be located within a range of up to 50 meters from the said power supply location.

Claim 2 (Previously presented): The audio system according to claim 1, wherein the switching amplifier is a digital amplifier.

Claim 3 (Previously presented): The audio system according to claim 2, wherein the switching amplifier is a class D digital amplifier with associated H-bridge circuit on the output stage.

Claim 4 (Previously presented): The audio system according to claim 2, wherein the circuitry of either the switching regulator and/or the switching amplifier is constructed of discrete components.

Claim 5 (Previously presented): The audio system according to claim 4, wherein the switching amplifier processes at least two channels of audio input.

Claim 6 (Previously presented): The audio system according to claim 5, further including an auxiliary control device, e.g. to control the audio output volume.

Claim 7 (Previously presented): The audio system according to claim 6, wherein the switching regulator and the switching amplifier are housed in a single housing.

Claim 8 (Previously presented): The audio system according to claim 1, wherein the power supply is connectable to each of the amplifier arrangement via a cable which varies in length between a preselected maximum e.g. 50m, and a preselected minimum, e.g. 1m.

Claims 9-10 (Cancelled).